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sorted somewhat as to subjects and authors. The volumes are numbered consecutively and the papers of each volume are numbered. Any paper is found by means of a card index giving number of volume and number of paper. If a volume contains papers by one or a few authors their names may be printed on the back, as well as the general subject treated in the volume, and at the bottom the name of owner. The first three volumes of such a series might have backs marked as follows:

| MEXICAN BIRDS | EVOLUTION | FISHES |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| I | 2 | 3 |
| <i>Brewster</i> | <i>Cope</i> | <i>Everman</i> |
| <i>Nelson</i> | <i>Jordan</i> | <i>Garman</i> |
| <i>Ridgway</i> | | <i>Gill</i> |
| SMITH | SMITH | SMITH |

This method commends itself by reason of the facts, that the papers are well protected, a volume is not so easily mislaid as a small pamphlet, and the pages having been cut in binding, are more easily run thru in order to locate a given paragraph. This method is more expensive than the first, but the greater convenience is well worth the additional cost.

I have given the two systems a pretty thoro test side by side, working with one set of papers bound and another equal number of papers unbound, and for convenience the bound volume is away ahead of the bunch of loose papers.

I hope the above notes will call forth additional remarks on the subject.

Manila, P. I.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Birds Whose Notes Are Imitated by the Western Mockingbird.—For the past three years I have made observations on the song of the western mockingbird in the vicinity of Pasadena and find in every instance that they imitate the commonest and most noisy birds of the locality. A striking proof of this was noted on Santa Catalina Island in the early part of last April. The western flycatcher was very numerous and in full song and as a result the mockingbirds of the Island were imitating it freely, something I have never known a mainland mockingbird to do.

In addition to the notes of other birds, the mockingbird utters several scolding notes which are strictly its own, but these are seldom heard in the regular song. There are quite a number of notes which I have been unable to place as yet. However, I think the following list will convey an approximate idea of the birds mimicked by *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus* in this region.

Western gull (Santa Catalina Island), killdeer, valley partridge, sparrow hawk, California woodpecker, red-shafted flicker, ash-throated flycatcher, Say phoebe, black phoebe, western wood pewee, western flycatcher (Santa Catalina Island), California jay, western meadowlark, Arizona hooded oriole, Bullock oriole, Brewer blackbird, San Diego song sparrow, black-headed grosbeak, western tanager, western martin, cliff swallow, phainopepla, California shrike, western gnatcatcher, dwarf hermit thrush, western robin.—C. H. RICHARDSON, Jr., Pasadena, Cal.

A Novel Find.—In November, 1905, a California condor's egg was found in Sespe Valley, back of Nordhoff, California. The egg was uninjured, but the contents were dried up. The nest-cave was in a huge ledge of rocks facing towards the south, the egg was found accidentally by a party of campers climbing about the rocks, and is one of the greatest pieces of luck I ever heard of; for who has found even so common an egg as that of the turkey vulture in the middle of November on an exposed ledge?—WILLIAM GALLAHER, *Santa Barbara, Cal.*

Pacific Kittiwake in Southern California.—On January 9, 1906, a specimen of the Pacific Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*) was picked up dead at Playa del Rey, one of the new beach resorts between Redondo and Santa Monica. The bird was forwarded to me by a friend, and proved to be a female in first winter plumage (No. 7487 Coll. J. G.). It was very lean, and somewhat emaciated, tho no direct cause of death could be determined. I think this is the first recorded instance for Los Angeles County.—J. GRINNELL, *Pasadena, Cal.*

Cannibalism in Owls.—On March 21, 1905, Dr. Wm. Bebb of this city, kindly gave me a female specimen of *Syrnium occidentale* (spotted owl) which was killed on the Old Wilson Peak trail near here. Upon dissection, the stomach was found to contain remains of a pygmy owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*), a portion of the skull enabling me to positively identify it. The spotted owl was taken about 6 P. M., and judging from the freshness of the stomach contents, the pygmy owl could not have been captured any great length of time. The case of "owl eat owl" is not a new one, but it would be of interest to determine which species is the greatest offender.—C. H. RICHARDSON, JR., *Pasadena, Cal.*

New Bird for Amador County.—On August 28, 1905, while driving in the western end of the County, near Carbondale, I saw a roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*). My brother and I collected in Amador County during four years without ever seeing the roadrunner, and as far as I know this is the first record of its occurrence in that region.—GEO. L. KAEDING, *Goldfield, Nevada.*

A Small Egg.—An average-sized hummingbird egg is a small and delicate thing. After examining several hundred sets and records of many more I concluded that an adnormal hummer's egg was something unheard of.

However, on June 11 of last year, while strolling along the bottom of a heavily wooded canyon near Escondido, a female hummer was flushed from the low limbs of a small live oak. Closer investigation by my brother proved that her nest was placed on a small twig about five feet from the ground. "One fresh egg," was the first report; then, "O! Gee! Look at the runt!" And sure enough there was the smallest egg I had ever seen just partially visible among the yellow down and feathers which lined the nest.

The bird was secured and proved to be a very small Costa (*Calypte costæ*), measuring about 3.40 inches in length.

After much speculation as to the possibility of blowing so small an egg I succeeded in making a fine specimen of it. It measured .29 x .21 inches and contained no yolk. The other egg was slightly incubated and measured .50 x .33 inches.

May I ask, has anyone else so small an egg? If so I would like to hear of it.—NELSON CARPENTER, *Stanford University, Cal.*

Pacific Eider in Washington.—The Pacific eider (*Somateria v-nigra*) has been reported from the vicinity of Tacoma off and on this winter since early December. Only one has been shot, this being reported to me as "looking like a hen mallard, only much larger with a heavier bill"; evidently a female. I went down to the Nisqually flats, 18 miles from Tacoma, on January 6, and had the good fortune to see a flock of seven eiders, besides a pair of females. The latter I approached within 80 yards as they were feeding in a slough, but they were very wild, and I failed to secure any.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Wash.*

A Correction.—Thru an inadequate knowledge of the two species, and altogether too hasty identification on my part, *Oreospiza chlorura* was noted as *Aimophila ruficeps* in my "List of Summer Birds of the Piute Mountains, California", THE CONDOR, Vol. VI. No. 5, page 136. Acknowledging my mistake, I wish here to offer a correction for the same.—C. H. RICHARDSON, JR., *Pasadena, Cal.*

Foolish Introduction of Foreign Birds.—On March 4, 1905, a specimen of the European Chaffinch (*Fringilla cœlebs* Linnaeus) was obtained at the Presidio of Monterey, California. Chaplain Joseph Clemens, who has become well acquainted with the native birds of the vicinity during his several years' residence at Monterey and Pacific Grove, caught the peculiar call-note of the stranger, and after assuring himself that this was no ordinary bird, hastened to secure a weapon. The bird was finally re-located in a pine and was shot, the skin being forwarded to me by Mr. Clemens for determination. I was completely non-plussed, as nothing like it had ever come into my collecting experience, and I was also unable to place it from the keys in any of my books on American birds. Moreover, it showed no marks of captivity nor any abnormal feature of the plumage.

I finally sent the bird to Dr. Richmond of our National Museum at Washington, and he promptly cleared up the mystery by informing me that 'it is a Chaffinch, sometimes called Bachelor Finch, *Fringilla cœlebs* Linnaeus. It is an abundant European species, and extends to central Asia, or thereabouts, but does not occur in China or Japan [that is, on the shores of the Pacific Ocean]. Although the specimen shows no evidences of cage life, it has no business to be at large in this country, particularly on the Pacific Coast, and I have no doubt it escaped from captivity, or was purposely liberated, probably with other species. Not many months ago we received for identification a Chinese Myna, shot in British Columbia, which had every appearance of being a wild bird.'

Dr. Richmond's suggestion that the chaffinch at Monterey could be easily accounted for as a bird purposely liberated by some person or society, at once appealed to me as the best explanation of the occurrence. It reminded me of the occasional notices we see in newspapers to the effect that Mr. So-and-So, or Such-and-Such Society "has recently liberated an importation of foreign songsters, which is a great public benefaction in that it will doubtless add to the bird-life so sparse in California." (!) It occurs to me that bird students should take pains to curtail the popular spread of this idea that the importation and release of foreign birds is desirable. It may even be dangerous.

The matter is so important that it has been the subject of special legislation by our Government. I wrote to Dr. T. S. Palmer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture on this subject and he replies as follows: "You may be interested to know that in South Australia the chaffinch, which was introduced some years ago with other European birds, is now considered such an undesirable species that under the game law of 1900 it is included in the list of injurious birds and denied protection.

"So far as I am aware there is no law to prevent any one from liberating birds already in his possession, but the matter can be readily regulated in another way. Section 2 of the Lacey Act requires permits for all foreign birds imported into the United States and prohibits the importation of such as the Secretary of Agriculture may declare injurious. By withholding permits or declaring injurious to agriculture species which are known to be destructive, importation of certain species can be stopped at any time. But as we do not wish to resort to extreme measures unless absolutely necessary, several birds are now admitted as cage birds which might not be if the practice of liberating them became general."

Now we of the Cooper Club as observers and students of our native birds should take particular pains to guard against any such calamity as the establishment within our limits of any foreign species. The examples of the myna in the Pacific islands, the starling and chaffinch in Australia, and the English sparrow in America should be reminders of the possibly direful results of transplanting species. Liberation of foreign birds can be but lost labor anyway. Of course in the great majority of cases the birds die harmlessly within a longer or shorter time on account of the radically new conditions of food and climate which they are physically unable to meet. But the occasional exception which actually thrives and becomes established is bound to crowd out some native species. For we may safely presume that there are just as many birds in any locality as the food-supply at the season of extremest shortage can support. There would be a larger population if there were more to eat at all times of the year here, or, in the case of migrants, here and elsewhere.

I, for one, do not want to see our native avifauna disturbed any more than the cultivation and settlement of the country necessitates. Personally, I would try my best to shoot any interloper I should meet with, simply to destroy it. This may be purely an æsthetic viewpoint. But there is the practical economic side, as well.

Dr. Palmer (U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.) would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows definitely of either the contemplated or accomplished importation of birds from anywhere for liberation.—J. GRINNELL, *Pasadena, Cal.*